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REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are all the claims presently pending in the application.

Entry of this §1.116 Amendment is proper. Since the amendments above narrow the issues for appeal and since such features were in the claims earlier, such amendments do not raise a new issue requiring a further search and/or consideration by the Examiner. As such, entry of this Amendment is believed proper and is earnestly solicited.

It is noted that the claims have been amended solely to more particularly point out Applicant's invention for the Examiner, and not for distinguishing over the prior art, narrowing the claim in view of the prior art, or for statutory requirements directed to patentability.

It is further noted that, notwithstanding any claim amendments made herein, Applicant's intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements, even if amended herein or later during prosecution.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the Specification and/or claims by the current Amendment. The attached pages are captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made**".

The Examiner objects to claims 11-13. Applicant submits that the amendments to the claims above address the Examiner's concerns and thus Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraws this objection to claims 11-13.

Claims 1-4 and 6-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knop, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,251,137) (hereinafter "Knop").

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over in view of Ohe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,295,110B1) (hereinafter "Ohe").

These rejections are respectfully traversed in the following discussion.

I. THE CLAIMED INVENTION

The invention was discussed in detail in the Amendment filed on November 14, 2002, and incorporated herein by reference. For convenience, the Examiner is referred thereto.

09/839,296
122638/00

Applicant's invention, as defined for example in a non-limiting embodiment of independent claim 1 (and substantially similarly by independent method claim 7) is directed to a liquid crystal display device including a first substrate formed with display pixel electrodes thereon, the first substrate having a first irregular surface including line-shaped protrusions extending in one direction.

A second substrate is arranged in an opposing relation to the first substrate and includes a second irregular surface including line-shaped protrusions extending perpendicularly to the one direction.

Further, in the present invention, the line-shaped protrusions along a drawing direction of a raw glass substrate are formed due to a direction dependency of a thickness of the raw glass substrate.

With such features, a direction of thickness distribution or irregularity distribution of a first substrate becomes orthogonal to a direction of thickness or irregularity of a second substrate when, for example, the substrates are laid one on the other during a fabrication process of a liquid crystal display panel.

None of the cited references is pertinent at all to the claimed combination, and nowhere discloses or suggest the technical inventive concept of the present invention. Indeed, the present invention is based upon the fact that a direction dependency of a thickness of the raw glass substrate or mother board is unavoidable. Specifically, in a non-limiting embodiment as defined by independent claim 1 (and substantially similarly by independent claims 7), "said line-shaped protrusions along a drawing direction of a raw glass substrate are formed due to a direction dependency of a thickness of the raw glass substrate".

As discussed in the Amendment filed on November 14, 2002, with the present invention an increase of a distance between positions at which the thick portions of the two substrates overlap and the thin portions of the two substrates overlap can be increased. Thus, a variation within a display is reduced and a defect rate improved.

The conventional systems, such as those discussed below and in the Related Art section of the present application, do not have such a structure, and fail to provide for such an operation (e.g., see page 6, lines 12-17; page 10, lines 13-18; page 11, lines 8-24; and page 12, lines 14-20; page 18, lines 21-27; and page 19, lines 1-10 of the present application).

09/839,296
122638/00

Such features are not taught or suggested by any of the cited references.

II. THE PRIOR ART REFERENCE

A. The Knop Reference

The Examiner asserts:

[regarding claims 1-4 and 6-10] Knop et al. teach (Fig. 4, col. 3 line 59 to col. 4 line 16) liquid crystal display device comprising the first substrate (grading (sic) substrate 402) having a first irregular surface including line-shaped protrusions extending in one direction; a second substrate 400 arranged in an opposing relation to said first substrate, said second substrate having a second irregular surface including line-shaped protrusions extending perpendicularly to said one direction for regulating contrast ratio.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify liquid crystal display device as applicants admitted with a first irregular surface including line-shaped protrusions extending in one direction; a second substrate arranged in an opposing relation to said first substrate, said second substrate having a second irregular surface including line-shaped protrusions extending perpendicularly to said one direction for regulating contrast ratio.

However, Applicant again respectfully disagrees and submits that the Examiner's assertions are erroneous.

Prior to discussing the Examiner's assertions regarding Knop, Applicant respectfully notes that in the present invention an "irregular surface" is present on a first and second substrate. This irregular surface is the consequence of drawing on a glass substrate in a fabrication process. In Knop, such a fabrication process is not disclosed nor is it an object of Knop. As such, Knop does not disclose or suggest an irregular surface as in the present invention.

Applicant notes, turning to Webster's New Universal Unabridged Dictionary,

09/839,296
122638/00

Copyright © 1996 by Random House Value Publishing, Inc., p.1009, “irregular” is defined as “*without symmetry, even shape, formal arrangement, etc.: an irregular pattern. 2. Not characterized by any fixed principle, method, continuity, or rate; irregular intervals*” (see Exhibit I).

As discussed in detail in the Amendment filed on November 14, 2002, Knop is not pertinent to the claimed invention. Nowhere does Knop (e.g., or for that matter Ohe) teach or suggest the directional dependency of a thickness of a raw glass substrate or motherboard, as defined by the claims of the present invention.

That is, Knop (e.g., either alone or in combination (arguendo) with Ohe) does not teach or suggest that “line-shaped protrusions along a drawing direction of a raw glass substrate are formed due to a direction dependency of a thickness of the raw glass substrate”.

Instead, Knop as shown in Fig. 4, shows a tunable diffractive-subtractive color filter for a projector having a first grating 400 and a second grating 402 with a regular surface pattern. The disclosure by Knop of such a regular surface pattern is no surprise since the structure of Knop is obtained by purposely machining the grating structure surfaces. Thus, in Knop there is disclosed “*a fixed, predetermined-waveform profile surface relief pattern*” (e.g., see column 1, lines 27-29 of Knop). Further, Knop discloses “*the physical amplitude a of gratings 406 and 408 may be selected to be substantially equal to the quotient of 280 nm divided by the absolute value of the difference between the index of refraction n for parallel polarized light and n_0* ” (e.g., see column 4, lines 8-13 of Knop).

Thus, in Knop a grating structure is regular, fixed, and pre-determined.

Nowhere does Knop disclose that a grating structure and its protrusions are dependent upon a “direction dependency of a thickness of the raw glass substrate”, as in the present invention. In fact, as discussed in the Amendment filed on November 14, 2002, the object of Knop has nothing to do with “line-shaped protrusions along a drawing direction of a raw glass substrate.....formed due to a direction dependency of a thickness of the raw glass substrate”.

That is, in contrast to the present invention, the regular surface of Knop is not intrinsic to a substrate. Again, Knop’s regular surface of the substrate must be formed affirmatively and purposely to provide the grating line grooves.

09/839,296
122638/00

Hence, turning to the clear language of the claims, there is no teaching or suggestion of "[a] liquid crystal display device comprising:

a first substrate formed with display pixel electrodes thereon, said first substrate having a first irregular surface including line-shaped protrusions extending in one direction;

a second substrate arranged in an opposing relation to said first substrate, said second substrate having a second irregular surface including line-shaped protrusions extending perpendicularly to said one direction; and

liquid crystal disposed between said first substrate and said second substrate, wherein said line-shaped protrusions along a drawing direction of a raw glass substrate are formed due to a direction dependency of a thickness of the raw glass substrate" (emphasis Applicant's).

For the reasons stated above, independent claim 1 (and substantially similarly independent claims 7 and 11) of the claimed invention are fully patentable over Knop.

Further, dependent claims 2-3, 6, 9-10, and 12-13 when taken in combination with claims 1, 7, and 11 define additional novel limitations.

Further, with regard to dependent claim 5, rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knop in view of Ohe, as discussed in detail in the Amendment filed on November 14, 2002, this claim provides additional limitations, which in combination with those of independent claim 1, are neither taught nor suggested by Knop and Ohe. That is, there is no teaching or suggestion of an "irregular surface" and "said line-shaped protrusions along a drawing direction of a raw glass substrate are formed due to a direction dependency of a thickness of the raw glass substrate", as in the present invention.

Therefore, these references either alone or in combination are much different from the present invention and fail to teach or suggest the claimed invention.

For the reasons stated above, the claimed invention is fully patentable over the cited references.

Additionally, regarding the rejection of claims 1-4 and 6-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knop, et al., the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate specifically where in the Knop et al. reference that support may be found for "line-shaped protrusions are formed due to a direction dependency of a thickness of a raw

09/839,296
122638/00

glass substrate” as asserted on page 4 of the Office Action.

III. FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

Applicant again notes with regards to the Examiner’s objection to the drawings with reference to claims 3 and 11, that as shown in Fig. 7A and as clearly described in the specification (e.g., see page 13, lines 5-9), a TFT 503 is a switching element. Further, as shown in Fig. 7B and as clearly described in the specification (e.g., see page 13, lines 21-25), a matrix shaped light shield film 203 is provided on a second substrate 101 and a color layer 142 necessary for color display is formed on the light shield film 203.

Regarding the Examiner’s objection to the drawings with reference to claim 5, Applicant notes that as shown in Fig. 7A and Fig. 7B and as clearly described in the specification (e.g., see page 13, lines 14-15), a common electrode 106 and a pixel electrode are arranged parallel to each other in an alternating sequence.

Regarding the Examiner’s objection to the drawings with reference to claim 11, the claim has been amended above to define “*wherein line-shaped protrusions along a drawing direction of a raw glass substrate are formed due to a direction dependency of a thickness of the raw glass substrate*”. Thus, the drawings indeed do show the line-shaped protrusions along a drawing direction of a raw glass substrate. Further, regarding the “*irregular surface*”, Applicant notes that the drawings are not drawn to a particular scale, and therefore the length between troughs defining the line-shaped protrusions is not drawn as a regular pattern shape. That is, as described in the specification (e.g., see page 17, lines 14-15), the thickness distribution is repeated with random interval.

Thus, Applicant again respectfully submits that the drawings taken as a whole in fact do show every feature of the claimed invention. It is noted that Rule 83(a) does not require that a single drawing show all claimed features.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objection to the drawings.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-13, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in

10

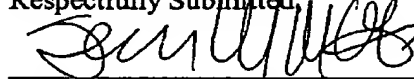
09/839,296
122638/00

condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sean M. McGinn, Esq.
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Date:

3/26/03

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Customer No. 21254**CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that I am filing this Amendment by facsimile with the United States Patent and Trademark Office to Examiner Hoan C. Nguyen, Group Art Unit 2871 at fax number (703) 872-9319 this 26th day of March, 2003.



Sean M. McGinn, Esq.
Reg. No. 34,386

09/839,296
122638/00

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended as follows:

1 1. (Amended) A liquid crystal display device comprising:

2 a first substrate formed with display pixel electrodes thereon, said first substrate
3 having a first irregular surface including line-shaped protrusions extending in one direction;

4 a second substrate arranged in an opposing relation to said first substrate, said
5 second substrate having a second irregular surface including line-shaped protrusions
6 extending perpendicularly to said one direction; and

7 liquid crystal disposed between said first substrate and said second substrate,
8 wherein said line-shaped protrusions along a drawing direction of a raw glass
9 substrate are formed due to a direction dependency of a thickness of [a] the raw glass
10 substrate.

1 7. (Amended) A fabrication method of a liquid crystal display device, comprising:

2 cutting apart a first rectangular substrate from a first raw glass substrate having a
3 belt-shaped irregularity such that a longer side direction of said first rectangular substrate is
4 coincident with a drawing direction of said first raw glass substrate;

5 cutting apart a second rectangular substrate from a second raw glass substrate having
6 a belt-shaped irregularity such that a longer side direction of said second rectangular substrate
7 becomes orthogonal to a drawing direction of said second raw glass substrate; and

8 arranging said first rectangular substrate in an opposing relation to said second
9 rectangular substrate with a gap formed therebetween to accept a liquid crystal layer and with
10 the longer sides of said first and second rectangular substrates being in the same direction,

11 wherein line-shaped protrusions along a drawing direction of said first and second
12 raw glass substrates are formed due to a direction dependency of respective thicknesses of
13 said first and second raw glass substrates.

09/839,296

122638/00

1 11. (Amended) A fabrication method of a liquid crystal display device, comprising:
2 cutting apart a first rectangular substrate from a first raw glass substrate having a
3 belt-shaped irregularity such that a longer side direction of said first rectangular substrate is
4 coincident with a drawing direction of said first raw glass substrate;
5 cutting apart a second rectangular substrate from a second raw glass substrate having
6 a belt-shaped irregularity such that a longer side direction of said second rectangular substrate
7 becomes orthogonal to a drawing direction of said second raw glass substrate; and
8 arranging said first rectangular substrate in an opposing relation to said second
9 rectangular substrate with a gap formed therebetween to accept a liquid crystal layer and with
10 the longer sides of said first and second rectangular substrates being in the same direction,
11 wherein line-shaped protrusions along a drawing direction of a raw glass substrate
12 are formed due to a direction dependency of a thickness of [a] the raw glass substrate, and
13 wherein a plurality of said first rectangular substrates are cut apart from said first
14 raw glass substrate in said cutting apart said first rectangular substrate and a plurality of said
15 second rectangular substrates are cut apart from said second raw glass substrate in said
16 cutting apart said second rectangular substrate,
17 said method further comprising before said cutting said first and second rectangular
18 substrates, forming electrodes and switching elements on each of said first rectangular
19 substrates and the step of forming a color filter layer on each of said second rectangular
20 substrates.

12. (Amended) A fabrication method of a liquid crystal display device, as claimed in claim 7,
wherein a distance between [positions at which pressure differences between] a position of
highest pressure between said first rectangular substrate and said second rectangular substrate
and a position of smallest pressure between said first rectangular substrate and said second
rectangular substrate [are largest] is increased, and
wherein a rate of variation of a gap between said first rectangular substrate and said
second rectangular substrate is decreased.

13

09/839,296
122638/00

13. (Amended) A fabrication method of a liquid crystal display device, as claimed in claim 11, wherein a distance between [positions at which pressure differences between] a position of highest pressure between said first rectangular substrate and said second rectangular substrate and a position of smallest pressure between said first rectangular substrate and said second rectangular substrate [are largest] is increased, and

wherein a rate of variation of a gap between said first rectangular substrate and said second rectangular substrate is decreased.

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Irregular

Exhibit I

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irradi-ant (i rā/də ant), adj. irradiating; radiant; shining. [1520-30; < L *irradiāre*, (a. of *irradiāre*), pp. of *irradiare* to shine upon. See *ir-*, *RADIANT*]

irradi-ate (i rā/də at; -tē), v. -ed, -ing, adj. -at, -tē. 1. to shed rays of light upon; illuminate. 2. to illuminate intellectually or spiritually. 3. to brighten as if with light. 4. to radiate (light, illumination, etc.). 5. to heat with rays of light upon; illuminate by exposure to radiation, as of ultraviolet light. 7. to expose to radiation. —*n.* 8. Archaic. a. to emit rays; shine. b. to become radiant. —adj. 9. irradiated; bright. [1585-1605; < L *irradiatus*, pp. of *irradiare* to shine upon. See *ir-*, *RADIATE*] —*irradi-ate-ly*, adv. —*irradi-ate-ness*, n. —*irradi-ate-ly*, adv. —*irradi-ate-ness*, n.

irradi-ation (i rā/də shən), n. 1. the act of irradiating. 2. the state of being irradiated. 3. intellectual or spiritual enlightenment. 4. a ray of light; beam. 5. Optics. the apparent enlargement of an object when seen against a dark background. 6. the use of x-rays or other forms of radiation for the treatment of disease, the making of x-ray photographs, or the process of exposure to x-rays or other radiation. 8. Physics. irradiance. [1580-90; < LL *irradiatio* (a. of *irradiare*). See *ir-*, *RADIATION*]

irradi-able (i rā/də bəl), adj. inerradicable. [1730-30; *ir-* + L *radicāre* (to) to grow roots, take root (taken incorrectly as "to root up") + *-ABLE*. See *RADICABLE*] —*irradi-able-ly*, adv.

ir-rat-ion-al (i rāsh'ə nəl), adj. 1. without the faculty of reason; deprived of reason. 2. without or deprived of normal mental clarity or sound judgment. 3. not in accordance with reason; utterly illogical; irrational arguments. 4. not endowed with the faculty of reason; irrational animals. 5. *Math.* a. (of a number) not capable of being expressed exactly as a ratio of two integers. b. (of a function) not capable of being expressed exactly as a ratio of two polynomials. 6. Algebra. (of an equation) having an unknown under a radical sign or, alternatively, with a fractional exponent. 7. *Calc.* and *Lat. Prob.* a. of or pertaining to a substitution in the named statistical pattern, esp. a long syllable for a short one. b. noting a foot or meter containing such a substitution. —*n.* 8. *Math.* See *irrational number*. [1425-75; late ME < L *irrationalis*. See *ir-*, *RATIONAL*] —*ir-rat-ion-al-ly*, adv. —*ir-rat-ion-al-ness*, n.

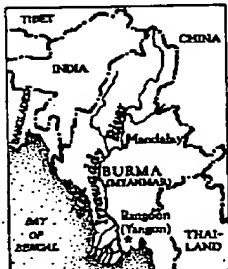
—*Syn.* 1. unreasonable, ridiculous, insane. **ir-rat-ion-al-ism** (i rāsh'ə nəl iz'm), n. 1. irrationality in thought or action. 2. an attitude or belief having a nonrational basis. 3. a theory that nonrational forces govern the universe. [1508-16; *irrational* + *-ISM*] —*ir-rat-ion-al-ist*, adj. *n.* —*ir-rat-ion-al-ism*, n.

ir-rat-ion-al-ity (i rāsh'ə nəl'itē), n. pl. -ties for 2. 1. the quality or condition of being irrational. 2. an irrational, illogical, or absurd action, thought, etc. [1560-70; *irrational* + *-ITY*]

ir-rat-ion-al-ize (i rāsh'ə nəl'iz), v. -ed, -ing, -izing. to make or cause to be irrational. Also, esp. Brit., *ir-rat-ion-al-ise*. [1890-95; *irrational* + *-IZE*]

ir-rat-ion-al num-ber, *Math.* a number that cannot be exactly expressed as a ratio of two integers. [1545-55]

Ir-rav-dy (i r'ə wəd'ə, -wə'də), n. a river flowing S through Burma (Myanmar) to the Bay of Bengal. 1280 mi. (2016 km) long.



ir-re-al (i r'ə əl, i r'ə), adj. unreal. [1940-50; *ir-* + *REAL*] —*ir-re-al-ly* (i r'ə əl'itē), n.

ir-re-but-ta-ble (i r'ə bət'ə bəl), adj. not rebuttable; incapable of being rebutted or refuted. [1820-30; *ir-* + *REBUTTABLE*]

ir-re-claim-a-ble (i r'ə klām'ə bəl), adj. not reclaimable; incapable of being reclaimed or rehabilitated; not ir-reclaimable except; ir-reclaimable offender. [1800-10; *ir-* + *RECLAIMABLE*] —*ir-re-claim-a-ble-ly*, adv. —*ir-re-claim-a-ble-ness*, n. —*ir-re-claim-a-ble-ly*, adv.

ir-re-con-cil-i-a-ble (i r'ə kən'sil'ə bəl, i r'ə kən'sil'ə), adj. 1. incapable of being brought into harmony or adjustment; irreconcilable difference. 2. incapable of being made to coalesce or compromise; implacably opposed; irreconcilable enemies. —*n.* 3. a person or thing that is irreconcilable. 4. a person who is opposed to agreement or compromise. [1590-1600; *ir-* + *RECONCILABLE*] —*ir-re-con-cil-i-a-ble-ly*, adv. —*ir-re-con-cil-i-a-ble-ness*, n. —*ir-re-con-cil-i-a-ble-ly*, adv.

ir-re-cov-er-a-ble (i r'ə kəv'ə ə bəl), adj. 1. incapable of being recovered or regained; as irrecoverable debt. 2. unable to be remedied or rectified; irretrievable; an irrecoverable loss. [1550-60; *ir-* + *RECOVERABLE*] —*ir-re-cov-er-a-ble-ly*, adv. —*ir-re-cov-er-a-ble-ness*, n. —*ir-re-cov-er-a-ble-ly*, adv.

ir-re-cus-a-ble (i r'ə kys'ə bəl), adj. not to be objected to or rejected. [1770-80; < LL *irrecusabilis*. See *ir-*, *RECUSARE*, *-ABLE*] —*ir-re-cus-a-ble-ly*, adv.

ir-re-deem-a-ble (i r'ə dē'm'ə bəl), adj. 1. not redeemable; incapable of being bought back or paid off. 2. irredeemably; irreparable; hopeless. 3. beyond redemption; irredimable. 4. (of paper money) not convertible into gold or silver. [1600-10; *ir-* + *REDEEMABLE*] —*ir-re-deem-a-ble-ly*, adv. —*ir-re-deem-a-ble-ness*, n. —*ir-re-deem-a-ble-ly*, adv.

ir-re-den-ta (i r'ə dən'tə), n. a region that is under the political jurisdiction of one nation but is related to another by reason of cultural, historical, and ethnic ties. [1910-15; < It (*Italia*) *irredenta* (Italy) unredeemed; see *irredentism*]

ir-re-den-tist (i r'ə dən'tist), n. 1. (usually cap.) a member of an Italian association that became prominent in 1873, advocating the redemption, or the incorporation into Italy, of certain neighboring regions (Gothia *irredenta*) having a primarily Italian population. 2. a member of a party in any country advocating the acquisition of some region included in another country by reason of cultural, historical, ethnic, racial, or other ties. —adj. 3. pertaining to or supporting such a party or its doctrine. [1890-95; < It *irredentista*, equiv. to (*Italia*) *irredenta* (Italy) unredeemed (sem. of *irredenta*, equiv. to *ir-* + *redere* < L *redemptus*; see *REDEMPTION*) + *-ista* -*IST*] —*ir-re-den-tist-ly*, n. —*ir-re-den-tist-ly*, n.

ir-re-duc-i-ble (i r'ə dūs'ə bəl, -dys'ə), adj. 1. not reducible; incapable of being reduced or of being diminished or simplified further; the irreducible minimum. 2. incapable of being brought into a different condition or form. 3. *Math.* a. of or pertaining to a polynomial that cannot be factored. b. of or pertaining to a group that cannot be written as the direct product of two of its subgroups. [1525-35; *ir-* + *REDUCIBLE*] —*ir-re-duc-i-ble-ly*, adv. —*ir-re-duc-i-ble-ness*, n. —*ir-re-duc-i-ble-ly*, adv.

ir-re-flex-i-ve (i r'ə flēk'sh'ə v), adj. not reflexive. [1685-90; *ir-* + *REFLEXIVE*] —*ir-re-flex-i-ve-ly*, adv. —*ir-re-flex-i-ve-ness*, n. —*ir-re-flex-i-ve-ly*, adv.

ir-re-form-a-ble (i r'ə fōrm'ə bəl), adj. 1. inausceptible to reforming influences; incorrigible. 2. not subject to improvement; final; perfect; irreformable doctrine. [1600-10; *ir-* + *REFORMABLE* + *-ABLE*]

ir-re-frag-a-ble (i r'ə frəg'ə bəl), adj. not to be disputed or contested. [1525-35; < LL *irrefragabilis*, equiv. to L *ir-* + *refragari* (to) to resist, oppose + *-ibilis* -*ABLE*] —*ir-re-frag-a-ble-ly*, adv. —*ir-re-frag-a-ble-ness*, n. —*ir-re-frag-a-ble-ly*, adv.

ir-re-fran-gi-ble (i r'ə frān'jə bəl), adj. 1. not to be broken or violated; inviolable; an irrefragable rule of etiquette. 2. incapable of being refuted. [1710-20; *ir-* + *REFRANGIBLE*] —*ir-re-fran-gi-ble-ly*, adv. —*ir-re-fran-gi-ble-ness*, n. —*ir-re-fran-gi-ble-ly*, adv.

ir-ref-u-ta-ble (i r'ə fyt'ə bəl, i r'ə fyt'ə bəl), adj. that cannot be refuted or disproved; irrefutable logic. [1610-20; < LL *irrefutabilis*. See *ir-*, *REFUTABLE*] —*ir-ref-u-ta-ble-ly*, adv. —*ir-ref-u-ta-ble-ness*, n. —*ir-ref-u-ta-ble-ly*, adv.

—*Syn.* indisputable, incontrovertible, undeniable.

Irreg. 1. irregular. 2. irregularly.

ir-reg-ard-less (i r'ə gərd'ləs), adv. Nonstandard regardless. [1910-15; *ir-* (prob. after *irrespective*) + *REGARDLESS*]

—*Usage.* *IRREGARDLESS* is considered nonstandard because of the two negative elements *ir-* and *-less*. It was probably formed on the analogy of such words as *irrespective*, *irrelevant*, and *irremovable*. Those who use it, including many writers, do so to add emphasis. *IRREGARDLESS* first appeared in the early 20th century and was perhaps popularized by its use in a comic radio program of the 1930's.

ir-reg-u-lar (i r'ə gyl'ə), adj. 1. without symmetry; even shape, formal arrangement; not an irregular pattern. 2. not conforming to any fixed principle, method, standard, or rule; irregular behavior. 3. not conforming to established rules, customs, etiquette, morality, etc.; highly irregular behavior. 4. not according to rule; or to the accepted principle, method, course, order, etc. 5. *Gram.* not conforming to the prevalent pattern or patterns of formation, inflection, construction, etc., of a language, having a rule descriptive of a very small number of items. *The English verb "keep" and "see" are irregular in their inflections.* 6. *Mil.* (army, of troops) not belonging to an organized group of the established forces. 7. flawed, damaged, or failing to meet a specific standard of manufacture or sale of irregular shirts. 8. *Bot.* a. not uniform. b. (of a flower) having the members of some or all of its floral circles or whorls differing from one another in size or shape, or extent of union. 9. deviating or experiencing deviations from a normally regular or cyclic body function, as bowel habits or menstruation. 10. (of a stock or commodity market) of mixed market activity; showing no clear up or down trend. —*n.* 11. a person or thing that is irregular. 12. *Com.* a product or material that does not meet specifications or standards in its pattern. 13. *Mil.* a soldier or combatant not of a regular military force, as a guerrilla or partisan. [1550-1600; < LL *irregularis* (see *ir-*, *REGULAR*); *r.* ME *irregular* < MF] —*ir-reg-u-lar-ly*, adv.

—*Syn.* 1. unsymmetrical, uneven. 2. unmethodical, unsystematic, disorderly, capricious, erratic, eccentric, lawless. 4. anomalous, unusual, irregular, abnormal, exceptional. *Irregular* implies a deviation from the regular, the normal, the ordinary, or the usual. *Irregular*, not according to rule, refers to any deviation, as in form, arrangement, action, and the like; it may imply such deviation as a mere fact, or as regrettable, or even censurable. *Abnormal* means a deviation from the common rule, often implying that this results in an aberrant or regrettably strange form or nature of a thing; *abnormal* lack of emotion; *A neo-headed calf* is abnormal. *Ex-*

CONCORD PRONUNCIATION KEY: act, clip, dare, part, set, equal; if, low, or, there, order, all, boss, box, out, up, urge; child; sing, shoe; thin; that; us as in treasure, e as in alone, a as in system, i as in easily, o as in follow, u as in circus; * as in five (fif), hour (occur), l and n can serve as syllable consonants, as in crude (krūd), and button (bāt'n). See the full key inside the front cover.